

NEWS from



Bill Postmus Supervisor, 1st District

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LENWOOD/HIGH DESERT ESTATES SEWER PROJECT ON TRACK

SAN BERNARDINO—First District San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus announced today that the proposed Lenwood/High Desert Estates sewer project is still on track and has advanced another step forward toward its 2002 construction schedule. The step forward came in the form of the Board of Supervisors' approval last Tuesday of a Mitigated Negative Declaration certifying that all environmental concerns have been addressed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The sewer project is entering its final planning stages before being put to the property owners of Lenwood and High Desert Estates for approval sometime this summer, according to First District Supervisor Bill Postmus.

"We are now waiting for a Letter of Condition from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which will tell us that we have qualified for and will receive grant money and a low-interest loan for the project," Postmus said. "I know that it seems like this process is taking a long time but it is quite involved. There are two local governing agencies (San Bernardino County and the City of Barstow) and three sources of funding. County staff has been quite thorough and we are now just waiting to hear from the USDA."

The project will connect the community of Lenwood and High Desert Estates to the City of Barstow sewer system. It is being funded by a \$3 million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant which was received by the City of Barstow and a \$1.5 million grant and a \$2.1 million low interest loan from the USDA, both secured by San Bernardino County.

Once the Letter of Condition is received from the USDA the County will start the process to form the assessment district and conduct the mailed ballot where the property owners of Lenwood and High Desert Estates will have the final say if the project is to proceed any further. The property owners will be voting to incur debt to repay the \$2.1 million USDA loan over a period of 40 years. "This project is a great opportunity for the communities of Lenwood and High Desert Estates and I will support their decision whatever it is," Postmus said.

Questions concerning the project can be directed to the San Bernardino County Special Districts Department at (909) 387-5940.